

Maine's Credit Unions Financial Fitness Fairs



- Founded in 2004, Maine credit unions introduced a new concept in youth financial education through Financial Fitness - A Money Management Experience. This award-winning, half-day event targets high school juniors and seniors and is similar to the game of "LIFE," where participating students are given a career and monthly income and then have to visit booths associated with various expenses that the average adult is faced with each month.

- Costs, such as transportation, housing, clothing, food, student loans, insurance and several other everyday expenses, are filled in on a monthly budget form by each student. At the end of the event, the goal is for students to have monthly budget that does not exceed monthly income.
- During the 2013/14 school year, more than 5,500 students participated/will participate in one of the nearly 30 fairs that were coordinated by Maine credit unions.
- Since 2004, more than 20,000 high school students have participated in one of the fairs.

Booths

- Credit
- Clothing
- Education
- Food
- Fun Stuff
- Transportation
- Housing
- Savings & Investments
- Insurance
- Home Furnishings

What students are saying

"This was a fantastic experience for me. I am going to work a year or so before I go to college and this gave me a lot to think about. I feel better prepared today thanks to this activity. It was well worth it!"

– Lake Region High School Senior, Age 18

I never realized that managing money was so important. I'm so glad I had a chance to come today. When I go off to college in a year, what I learned today will give me a lot more confidence in how to budget."

- Madawaska High School Junior, Age 16

2013/14 Fairs

- Portland High School (held October 2013)
- Erskine Academy (held October 2013)
- Scarborough High School (held October 2013)
- Windham High School (held November 2013)
- Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School (held March 2014)
- Aroostook Chapter of Credit Unions - high schools from throughout the County (March 2014)
- Kennebec Valley Chapter of Credit Unions – high schools from Augusta/Waterville region (March 2014)
- Bonny Eagle High School (March 2014)
- Cony High School (April 2014)
- Lake Regional High School (April 2014)
- Five County CU's Waterville Area Fair at Thomas College (April 2014)
- Marshwood High School (April 2014)
- Norm Nolette Chapter of Credit Unions – high schools from Lewiston/Auburn region (April 2014)
- Northern Penobscot Chapter of Credit Unions – high schools from Northern Penobscot County (April 2014)
- Windham High School (second fair in April 2014)
- Washington County High Schools (April 2014)
- Bangor Chapter of Credit Unions – high schools from Bangor area (May 2014)
- Thornton Academy (May 2014)
- Dixfield High School (May 2014)
- Falmouth High School (June 2014)
- Maine Correctional Center (June 2014)
- Mountain Valley High School (TBD)

- Several other smaller fairs have been held and/or are planned.



Bangor Chapter Annual Financial Fitness Fair



Norm Nolette and Jeannette G. Morin Chapter



Alexander Ferguson Chapter of Credit Unions
Lake Region High School